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Niles council approves revolving loan for RadioShack

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — A popular Niles business will be able to complete its move to downtown with support from the City of Niles.

The Niles City Council voted 5-1 Monday to approve Dylan Roberts' $30,000 Revolving Loan Fund request to assist with relocating his RadioShack business to its new location at 105 E. Main St.

Roberts recently purchased the Niles RadioShack store which was formerly located in the shopping plaza located at 720 S. 11th Street. Mr. Roberts has found a location on Main Street in the downtown which he feels is a better setting for the business and requested a $30,000 loan from the City's Revolving Loan Fund to assist with renovation of the downtown space for retail, signage, and establishing a maker space.

The Maker Space will offer workshops, classes, and open lab time for DIY electronics projects, 3D Printing and Prototyping, robotics and coding, arts and crafts, STEM education for kids and adults and more.

"I feel RadioShack has always been a downtown type of brand," Roberts said. "People need stuff and if you want help, we're here. We help people find the things they need to get back up and running."

According to the city website, Niles administers a revolving loan fund program that is available for loan and grant projects considered eligible by the state of Michigan. The RLF is an economic development tool that is based on partnerships between private businesses and the city that works by providing loans to businesses that cannot locate or expand in Niles with traditional financing sources alone.

The aim of the RLF is to generate economic activity that will lead to the

See LOAN, Page A6

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Niles RadioShack owner Dylan Roberts poses in front of his store's new location at 105 E. Main St. in downtown Niles.

Buchanan mayor Sean Denison resigns

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — The Buchanan City Commission will soon have a new member and a new mayor after Mayor Sean Denison's sudden resignation Monday night. His resignation also eliminates the recall election against him that had been scheduled for November.

A recall against Denison over his suspension of then City Manager Benjamin Eldridge last fall was certified in May and he was expected to face former City Commissioner Scott King in November. King announced in May that he was running to bring transparency, accountability and fiscal responsibility back to the city.

Denison

City Clerk Kalla Langston said after the meeting that the recall election is now off. Michigan law states that if the person under recall resigns after the calling of a recall election, the election shall not be held.

As for replacing Denison, she said the commission will have to accept Denison's resignation and then have 30 days to appoint someone to serve the remaining two years of Denison's term. Mark Weedon is currently mayor protem and could be appointed mayor until after the November election.

Denison had mentioned the possibility of resigning three weeks ago, saying that his name had been dragged through the mud over the past 10 months. Monday, he said he had strived since coming on the commission in 2018 to leave the city a better place and credited city staff and volunteers for giving their time and energy to the city.

He spoke of a small group of "small minded people" who he said continued to insult, bully and post lies and rumors on social media. "I strive to be a person of character, my values won't bend for anyone here," he said. "I will not look the other way when I see bullying or people making racist or sexist statements."

He said the situation had reached the level that was "beyond acceptable" even though he had tried to treat others with respect. He said he was choosing to resign immediately to focus on his health and family and to enjoy life.

The only person he mentioned by name was fellow City Commissioner Dan Vigansky. Denison had pushed for Vigansky to be censured and removed from office. A recall effort against Vigansky failed earlier this year.

"My criticism of Dan was not because I don't like him but because his actions put the city at risk," Denison said.

King said late Monday that he had mixed emotions about Denison's resignation. He said he was glad to have been able to get out and talk to the citizens of Buchanan and had been looking forward to taking their concerns to the rest of the city commission in hopes of finding common sense solutions to make people's lives better.

On the other hand, he said that Denison had showed disdain and an utter lack of respect for the people by not resigning soon after the

See MAYOR, Page A8

'ONE BIG FAMILY'

Berrien County Youth Fair a success for community

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BERRIEN SPRINGS — The Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds were put to good use this week.

The Berrien County Youth Fair will say goodbye to this year's festivities after Saturday's Bullmania grandstand event at 7 p.m. Fair president Corey Burks has been pleased with the results. From the crowd-pleasing grandstand events to the anticipated animal shows, Burks expects more than 120,000 guests will have experienced the fair this week.

"That says a lot," he said. "That's a lot of people coming to the community of Berrien Springs and Oronoko Township here but also there are a lot of cars from out of state that come

See FAIR, Page A6

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
The 2024 Berrien County Youth Fair thrilled visitors and participants from Aug. 12 to Aug. 17.

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MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
The Niles City Council voted 5-1 Monday to approve the "City of Niles Park and Maintenance Millage" ballot proposal and language for submission to city voters at the Nov. 5 election.

Niles puts parks maintenance millage on November ballot

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — City of Niles residents will have the opportunity to vote in November to decide if they want to support the improvement and enhancement of parks, trails and recreation activities across the city, including the possible addition of a spray pad.

The Niles City Council voted 5-1 Monday to approve the "City of Niles Park and Maintenance Millage" ballot proposal and language for submission to city voters at the Nov. 5 election. If voted in, the millage would assist with expenses associated with improving park picnic shelters, play structures, trails and the possible addition of a spray pad feature in Riverfront Park. Second ward councilmember Amanda Dunnem and fourth ward councilmember John DiCostanzo were

See MILLAGE, Page A8

OBITUARIES

Jerry Proshwitz
Leslie Payne-Bownes
Larry Cass
Lillis Kingman
Ronald L. Myers
Gertrude Joyce Collmer
Gertrude Melissa Albertson
Floyd Wayne Hollingsworth
Denton Alan Kime
Thomas Schweinzger
Henry "Lyle" Taylor
Brian Ottinger
Brenda S. King
Deatrice Booker

A4, A6

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

"Don't let me down now Lions. You pulled me back in, got me excited. Don't leave me at the altar." **A2**

Fall sports practice gets under way **B1**

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email scott.novak@leaderpub.com

"Name calling by a former US president is embarrassing. We don't need this kind of nonsense from the former leader of the Free World."

"Any veteran, regardless of his/ her rank or years served or the places served deserves our respect and admiration. Anything short of this is not acceptable."

"The Left is the party of tax and spend and borrow. The Right isn't much better, but I already pay too much in taxes to be worried about less money in my pocket."

"Is a 15-20% tip still appropriate when all the prices have climbed so high? I mean does a $50 meal deserve a $10 tip?"

"Parents and grandparents, as the kids start getting back to school, nothing says I care more about you than getting involved in their school. Ask them about what they are learning. Go to their ballgames and science and art fairs. Take time to reach out to the teachers and see what they need for their classrooms. Give these kids the same opportunities that we had as students. "

"Don't let me down now Lions. You pulled me back in, got me excited. Don't leave me at the altar."

"Dear Neighbor, Cut your grass and pull those 3' tall weeds. You may want to store those 100 kids toys in the backyard, along with the broken trampoline."

"I think the snow will hold off this winter in Michigan. I predict low 70's and sunny most days, especially in January and February."

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
50% Chance of Storms	30% Chance of Storms	Mostly Sunny	Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Sunny
79° 64°	76° 60°	76° 50°	74° 49°	75° 56°	78° 57°

NILES APPROVES ANNUAL APPLE FESTIVAL

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — The Apple Festival Committee's request to conduct the 52nd annual Four Flags Apple Festival from Thursday, Sept. 26 through Sunday, Sept. 29 was approved 5-1 during Monday's City Council meeting.

The four-day event will ring in the fall season with all kinds of entertainment, activities and treats.

The city will contribute $7,410 in-kind donations to support the festival, which will cover the cost of barricade setup and removal, policing and utility and street costs. The list of requests also included permission to conduct the annual Apple Festival Grand Parade scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28 as well as the Youth Day Parade set for Saturday, Sept. 21.

Fourth ward councilmember Michael Thompson casted the lone dissenting vote because he does not believe the city should contribute funds toward events.

"Regardless of how much my family and I enjoy the festival, paying for parties is not a role of the government," he said. "I might add that this is why the founders of this country, with the exception of (Founding Father Alexander Hamilton) and his ilk, wanted little to no government to begin with."

In other business, the council authorized the sale of 1113 N. 9th Street, 714 N. 5th Street, and 652 N. 8th Street to Swan Bravo Opportunity Zone Business, LLC of Portage, Michigan for $1,000 per parcel, placing the funds in the General Fund revenue account.

In January of 2024 the council approved a purchase agreement with Green Development Ventures, LLC for 22 housing lots owned by the city. The development agreement allows the purchaser to assign the agreement to other entities. Swan Bravo Opportunity Zone Business, LLC is a related entity of Green Development Ventures, LLC. Both are related to Allen Edwin Homes. Swan Bravo Opportunity Zone Business, LLC is the property holder for this project. Green Development Ventures has completed their due diligence on the three lots brought before the council and is prepared to begin construction of single-family homes on the lots.

Council also moved to designate Public Safety Director James Millin as the administration delegate to the MERS Annual Convention and Wendy Schirripa as the employee delegate, with Daniel Tackett as the alternate employee delegate.

While Thompson supported the designations, he said he would like to see the administrators of the MERS fund go on record stating they have removed all commercial real estate loan investments from their portfolios.

"It is being said that regulators are looking the other way as banks offload their dead or dying the CRA loan books onto portfolios of insurance companies and pension funds. On Wall Street, pension funds are referred to as 'the place where money goes to die,' so keep that in mind when dealing with these people. The reason regulators are allowing this, by the way, is because it is realized in Washington, that stealing currency from taxpayers to bail out your grandparents' pensions will be easier to sell

See APPLE, Page A6

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

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MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
The Berrien County Youth Fair celebrated the grand reopening of its "Wonders of Birth" exhibit Monday.

Wonders of Birth exhibit celebrates grand reopening

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BERRIEN SPRINGS — A popular fair exhibit returned to the Berrien County Youth Fair this year with a new look.

The Berrien County Youth Fair celebrated the grand reopening of its "Wonders of Birth" exhibit Monday. The barn has been educating children and adults about animal creation and reproduction since 1991 and features mother and baby animals, species facts and action birthing photos and videos.

The new-look exhibit features expanded animal options and an activity center for children.

"It was just time to refresh it and have a different option for the community to see to really engage the next generation of Youth," said Wonders of Birth Co-Superintendent Heather Kaler. "It can be more entertaining and maybe even provide some photo opportunities for the kids to see.

For Kaler, the exhibit provides families with a chance to learn more about the animals that make up farms across the county.

"Hopefully they learn more about the animals that other kids are showing at the fair so that they can relate to it and enjoy the other exhibits that kids are showing throughout the fair," she said.

For a full list of fair prices, specials and a schedule, visit bcyf.org

Federal court forbids Mega Liquor & Smoke owner from engaging in employee retaliation

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTH BEND, IND. — The U.S. Department of Labor has obtained a permanent injunction and order forbidding the owner and operator of 61 Mega Liquor & Smoke stores in Indiana and Michigan from retaliating against workers who cooperate with U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division investigations and otherwise exercise their rights under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The action by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana in South Bend on Aug. 1, 2024, restrains Bhola Singh, owner of Vishav Inc., in Granger, Indiana, from retaliating against current and former employees as a result of the department's Wage and Hour Division investigation, which determined Singh retaliated against workers who spoke to investigators and tried to coerce them to return back wages found due. Singh also owns Nitro Zone, a family entertainment center in Dowagiac.

The court also forbids Singh from terminating any employees or reducing their wage rates or work hours for a period of six months unless he submits written notice seven days in advance to the department and to any affected employees as to the non-retaliatory business justification for the termination and/or reduction of wage rates or hours.

Singh and the company have paid the remaining $171,082 in back wages and damages to 156 employees required by the court injunction, plus an additional $50,000 in attorneys' fees. The back wages and damages represents the balance of the $354,633 that he agreed to pay the division in September 2023 to resolve its investigation.

"The court has held Bhola Singh accountable for retaliating against workers he believed cooperated with federal investigators and for failing to pay employees their rightfully earned wages," said Regional Solicitor of Labor Christine Heri in Chicago. "Employers must know: the Department of Labor will not tolerate employer retaliation against workers and will deploy every legal resource to safeguard workers' FLSA rights."

In May 2024, the court entered a consent preliminary injunction and order after the department sought a restraining order against Singh in February 2024. The order required Singh to advise employees of their rights under the Fair Labor Standards Act by posting a statement in a language understood by workers and showing employees a related video.

In its February filing, the department alleged that, after signing a Sept. 29, 2023, settlement agreement obliging Singh to pay the back wages and liquidated damages for minimum wage and overtime violations against the affected workers between Nov. 9, 2020, and Nov. 6, 2022, he engaged in a scheme to deprive current and former employees of the money owed by using threats, intimidation and coercion. The FLSA bans employers from retaliating against workers.

"The Wage and Hour Division has now recovered the wages due to Singh's employees and that he agreed to pay months ago," said Wage and Hour Division Regional Administrator Michael Lazzeri in Chicago. "Our actions to stop this employer from intimidating workers and exploiting them for financial gain serves notice to other employers that we will hold them accountable for abiding by federal wage laws."

Attorneys Travis Gosselin and Haley Jenkins of the department's Regional Office of the Solicitor in Chicago are litigating the case.

NOTICE - PUBLIC LAND AUCTION

The Cass County Treasurer will offer tax-reverted real estate at public auction on September 3rd, 2024.

The auction will be held online at **www.tax-sale.info** from 10:00am to 7:00pm EDT. Bids can also be placed up to 30 days in advance on the website, and assistance is available for those without computer or internet access.

Incomplete or voided sales from the September 3rd auction, if any, will be re-offered online on September 26th, 2024. Please visit **www.tax-sale.info/faq** for additional details.

For more information and a list of the properties being sold, visit **www.tax-sale.info** or call 1-800-259-7470. Sale listings *may* also be available at the county treasurer's office.

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DEATH NOTICES

Jerry Proshwitz, 89, of of Dowagiac, died Thursday, August 08, 2024. Graveside Services will be at 2:00pm on Tuesday, Aug 13, at Riverside Cemetery, 400 Riverside Dr, Dowagiac. Arrangements by Clark Chapel and Cremation, Dowagiac. For a complete obituary visit www.clarkch.com.

Leslie Payne-Bownes, 57, of of Dowagiac, died Wednesday, August 07, 2024. Funeral Service at 1:00pm on Friday, Aug 16, Second Baptist Church, 203 S Paul, Dowagiac. Visitation 5:00-7:00pm, Thursday, Aug 15, at Clark Chapel, 405 Center, Dowagiac. Complete obituary at www.clarkch.com.

Larry Cass, 76, of Niles passed away Friday, August 10, 2024 at Elkhart General Hospital. Arrangments have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Lillis Kingman, 86, of Berrien Springs, passed away on Saturday, August 10, 2024 at her home. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home in Berrien Springs, Michigan. www.AllredFuneralHome.com

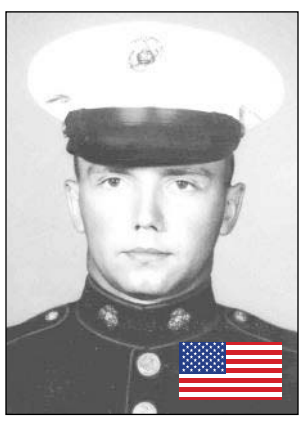
Ronald L. Myers, 74, passed away on Monday, August 12, 2024, in South Bend, Indiana. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Gertrude Joyce Collmer, 97, passed away on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in Dowagiac, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Gertrude Melissa Albertson, 88, passed away on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Floyd Wayne Hollingsworth, 83, passed away on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, in Sun City, Arizona. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

OBITUARIES



Denton Alan Kime

March 11, 1942 - August 6, 2024

Denton "Denny" Keith Kime, 82, passed away on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, in Niles, Michigan.

Denny was born on March 11, 1942, in Niles, Michigan to the late Forest Kime and Florence (Hubbard) Phillips.

Along with his parents, Denny was preceded in death by his siblings, Beverly Gilchrist, Merle Kime, and David Kime.

Left to cherish the memory of Denny is his loving wife, Marlene (Holtz) Kime; daughter, Lisa Donaghe; several nieces and nephews, and first wife, Wilma (Payne) Kime.

Denny grew up with the "Barron Lake Boys" and they remained friends through the years. A dedicated educator at heart, Denny's love for teaching biology at Eau Claire High School and Lake Michigan College was paralleled only by his enthusiasm for coaching softball—inspiring young minds both on and off the field.

A loyal fan of Notre Dame Football and Women's Basketball, he carried the spirit of the game as effortlessly as he once played football, a testament to his Sigma Nu fraternity days. Denny's commitment to his country shone through his courageous service in the United States Marine Corps, bearing witness to his strength and resilience in Vietnam, a place he later returned to as a gesture of peace and fellowship.

In the company of his beloved wife Marlene, Denny found solace and joy under warmer skies, embracing a well-earned getaway each winter. His legacy endures—not just as a veteran, an educator, or an inspector at Chardon Rubber—but as a man who lived life fully and with unwavering devotion to his community, friends, and the sports that echoed through his days.

Denny's family would like to thank all of the VA Admin and caregivers, especially, Christine Phillips, Ricky Perez, and Reyna Tello for all of their love and support during Denny's final days.

A Memorial Service for Denny will be held at a later date.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home.

Photos, condolences, and memories may be left for Denny's family at www.BrownFuneralHome-Niles.com

Thomas Schweinzger

July 5, 1930 - August 6, 2024

Thomas Charles Schweinzger, 94, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2024, at The Fountains of Crystal Lake, Illinois. He was born on July 5, 1930, in Niles, Michigan, to Walter Lewis and Dorothy Rachel (Baker) Schweinzger. Thomas married Barbara Ellen Rice on December 27, 1953 - they were married for 68 years prior to Barbara's passing in December 2022.

Tom attended Niles High School and then enlisted in the US Army in 1948 where he was stationed at Camp Hood (then called Fort Hood and now Fort Cavazos) in Texas and rose to the rank of Second Lieutenant. Tom attended Michigan Technological University graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Tom spent most of his career as part of the senior management team at Garden City Fan Company, in his hometown of Niles, Michigan. His engineering degree came in handy as he had a clear understanding of the innerworkings of the industrial fans he sold, which helped him explain the products to his customers around the globe. He was well-liked by everyone at the company, taking the time to get to know the factory workers and would visit the production facility floor on a regular basis. Tom was a member of the Niles Elks Club, and played in local golf, bowling and volleyball leagues.

Tom designed and built his retirement home on Big Fish Lake in Marcellus, Michigan. He continued to play in golf leagues, participate in fundraising activities that benefitted the local volunteer fire department and spent lots of time on his tractor, and had the most manicured lawn on the lake. Tom and Barbara created so many happy memories with their friends and family, especially during long days on the pontoon boat and when they would throw their legendary Fourth of July party, which was a highlight of the summer.

One rarely encountered Tom without his constant, patented smile and hearty laugh. He was so happy and friendly; enjoyed telling jokes, singing jingles, and doing magic tricks. Tom could fix anything and was always readily available to offer his help whenever someone needed it, no matter how big or small the project. He couldn't toast a slice of bread but made a mean batch of mashed potatoes. Tom was a voracious reader and enjoyed either war or western novels and did not deviate - he read every Louis L'Amour book ever published several times.

Tom was especially proud of his family and never failed to show his love for them. Through the years, he would travel great distances to spend time and support his son and grandsons in their activities. He was a loving and caring husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and friend. While Tom will be deeply missed, his memory will be eternal through his son Gregory (Jacqueline); grandchildren Chad (Morgan), Matthew (Andrea), John, Dane & Mason; great grandchildren Jack, Liam, Claire and Kate; and friends and family.

There are no plans for a service. The family will hold a private celebration of life for Tom at a later date.

Henry "Lyle" Taylor

January 4, 1936 - August 8, 2024

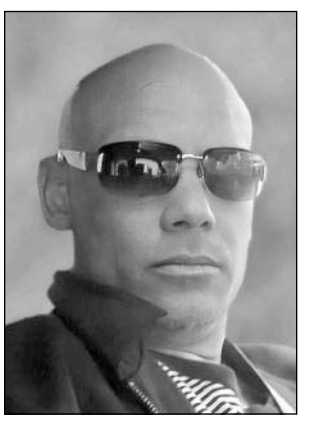
Henry "Lyle" Taylor, 88, of Dowagiac, passed away on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at Corewell Health Lakeland Hospital in St. Joseph, Ml. He was born on January 4, 1936, in Decatur, Ml, the son of the late Henry and Annabelle (Barnhart) Taylor. On September 12, 1959, Lyle was united in marriage to Patsy Reist in Decatur.

Lyle was a veteran of the United States Army. He worked as a meat cutter and was employed by several grocery stores throughout his career, but is most remembered from Northside Grocery, where he worked for over 20 years. Lyle was a charter member of the Dowagiac Homing Pigeon Club and longtime member of the Dowagiac Lions Club. He was an avid deer hunter and enjoyed hunting with his deer hunting group. Lyle looked forward to always attending the annual Taylor Family Christmas party on the first Sunday of December.

Surviving are two children, Candy (John) Cooper and Steve (Debbie) Taylor both of Dowagiac; seven grandchildren, Andee Taylor, Jeff Cooper, Drew Cooper, Erika File, Danielle Hyatt, Brittany Herman and Abbi Gnatz; twelve great-grandchildren; two sisters, Ardith VandenBerg and Carolyn Reits; brother-in-law, Ed Reist; three sisters-in-law, Judy Madaras, Jackie Carpenter and Sherry Duvall; and several nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his wife of 63 years, Patsy; and his parents.

A Memorial Gathering to celebrate Lyle's life will be held from 2:00-4:00 PM on Sunday, August 11, at Clark Chapel - Starks Family Funeral Homes, 405 Center Street, Dowagiac. Memorial contributions in Lyle's name may be directed to Dowagiac Lions Club. Please visit Lyle's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to his family at www.clarkch.com.



Brian Ottinger

August 6, 1980 - August 10, 2024

Brian S. Ottinger, 44, a lifelong resident of Dowagiac, passed away on Saturday, August 10, 2024.

He was born on August 6, 1980, in Berrien Springs, MI.

Surviving are his daughter - Ezra; significant other and mother of his daughter - Crystal Morseau; mother - Mary Wood; father - Tom Guntle; step-father - John Wood; siblings - Tonya Guntle, Travis Guntle, Ashley (Michael) Smith and Adam (Creasie) Wood; aunts & uncles - Robin (Walter) Peters, Paula (Fred) Schoff, Lyman Ottinger, Leroy Starrett, Mark Starrett, Orville Starrett; Robert Guntle Jr, and Sue Guntle; step-aunts and step-uncles - Sharon Landers, Jack Wood, and Dawn Drish; paternal grandmother - Jan Drouillard; paternal grandfather - Robert Sr (Fran) Guntle; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

Preceding him in death were his baby brother - Michael Wood; maternal grandparents - Lyle and Dorothy Starrett; aunt - Elaine Starrett; two uncles - Joe Guntle and Bruce Landers; step-grandmother - Maryann Drish; and step-grandfather - Floyd Wood.

Funeral services for Brian will be at 12:00 PM on Monday, August 19, at Pokagon Band Community Center, 27043 Potawatomi Trail, Dowagiac, where friends may visit with the family from 10:00 AM until the time of services. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart of Mary Cemetery, Dowagiac. Arrangements have been entrusted to Clark Chapel - Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac. Please visit Brian's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to his family at www.clarkch.com.

Brenda S. King

May 4, 1967 - August 12, 2024

Brenda Sue King, 57, of Elkhart, died peacefully under hospice care Monday, August 12, 2024 in her residence in the comfort of her son's presence.

Her life began May 4, 1967 in Dowagiac, Michigan, the only child of Leonard and Linda Vaughn.

Brenda was a Christian and a loving person who will be missed by all who love her.

Brenda will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her son, Brenden King of Elkhart; her aunts, Lois Haines of Niles, Charlene Vaughn of Cassopolis; her uncles, William Vaughn of Cassopolis, Gordon Lawson of Warsaw, Indiana; former spouse, John King; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her aunt, Barbara Buck, her uncles, Eugene Vaughn, Lloyd Vaughn, and Emerson Haines Jr.

The family will observe a private remembrance.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Deatrice Booker

October 16, 1938 - August 3, 2024

Deatrice "Dee" J. (Crumb) Booker, 85, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Saturday, August 3, 2024. She accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as a young youth in Dublin, Mississippi.

Her life began October 16, 1938, in Trail Lake, Mississippi, the fourth of five children born to William "Wil" and Mary (Bradley) Jackson, Sr. Her education began in Dublin, Mississippi at the Dublin Elementary School where she attended through the 8th grade. Her education continued at Aggie High School in Clarksdale, Mississippi where she completed the 11th grade. She later completed High School at Samuel Adams High School in Cassopolis, Michigan and went on to attend Southwestern Michigan College working toward her associate's degree.

Deatrice was united in marriage to Odell Crumb Sr. in 1958. He preceded her in death in 1960. She married Willie Thomas Booker November 13, 1968, in Chicago, Illinois. After forty-seven years of marriage, he preceded her in death in 2015.

Deatrice was intelligent, strong, tenacious and had a vast knowledge of different subjects which included going to the fruit and vegetable farms picking her own assortment of products. She and her late husband would spend countless hours working outside of the home and returning home to cook and can for their family.

Deatrice also enjoyed attending church, travelling, sporting events and shopping for clothing which she had her own distinct style. If she couldn't find a style in the clothing store, she would purchase the pattern and make it herself.

Deatrice was selfless,

See OBITUARIES, Page A6

Niles Daily Star

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COMICS & PUZZLES

ADAM

WILL YOU PROOFREAD MY LAST TWO CHAPTERS?
WILL THEY DEPRESS ME?
WHAT? NO. THEY AREN'T SAD OR ANYTHING.
NO, I MEAN BECAUSE YOUR WRITING IS BETTER THAN MINE.
MAYBE I'LL ASK GAYLE.
GOOD CALL. I DON'T NEED A DOWNWARD SPIRAL THIS AFTERNOON.

ALLEY OOP

SOOOPER OOOLA, PREPARE YOURSELF TO SEE THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SCUM WHO ARE RUINING THIS FAIR CITY.
THAT'S IT?! IT'S SO FRIENDLY AND INVITING!
GOOD DEEDS SQUAD WE'RE HERE TO HELP!
AH, THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT YOU TO THINK. BUT IT'S ALL A RUSE, DISGUISING THE EVIL THAT LURKS WITHIN.
HOWDY, FOLKS! DO YOU NEED DIRECTIONS? WANT SOME LEMONADE?
SEE?! PURE EVIL!

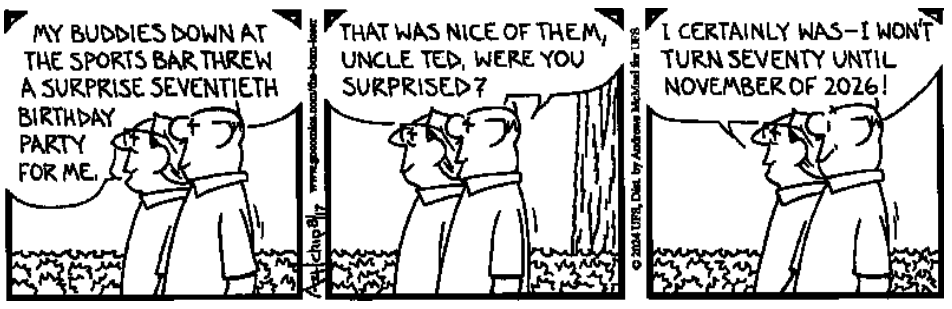
ARLO & JANIS

I'M TOLD THE SHIPPER HAS PICKED UP MY PACKAGE.
THEN I'M TOLD THE PACKAGE IS EN ROUTE.
AND I'M TOLD THAT IT HAS BEEN DELIVERED.
WHAT DID WE EVER DO BEFORE TRACKING?

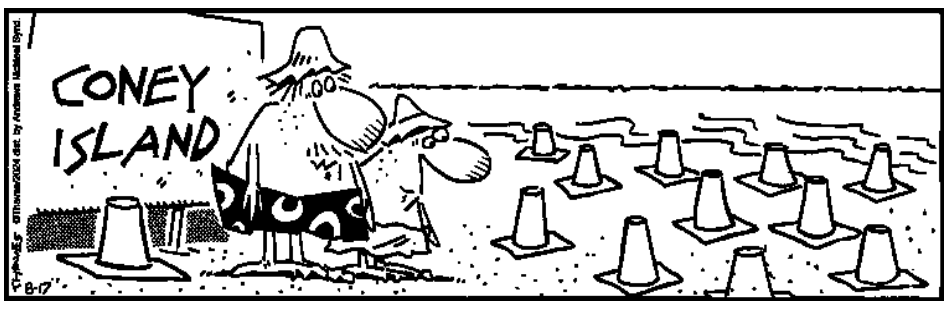
BIG NATE

SO YOUR DAD THREW IT RIGHT OVER THE PLATE?
HE DID FINE. I'M THE ONE WHO MESSED UP!
INSTEAD OF "PLAY BALL," I SAID "BLAY PALL"! WHAT AN IDIOT I AM!
AW, I'M SURE NOBODY EVEN NOTI—
HEY! I SAW YOU AT HADLOCK FIELD!
I'M INFAMOUS.
HEY, GUYS! IT'S THE "BLAY PALL" KID!

BORN LOSER


MY BUDDIES DOWN AT THE SPORTS BAR THREW A SURPRISE SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR ME.
THAT WAS NICE OF THEM, UNCLE TED, WERE YOU SURPRISED?
I CERTAINLY WAS—I WON'T TURN SEVENTY UNTIL NOVEMBER OF 2026!

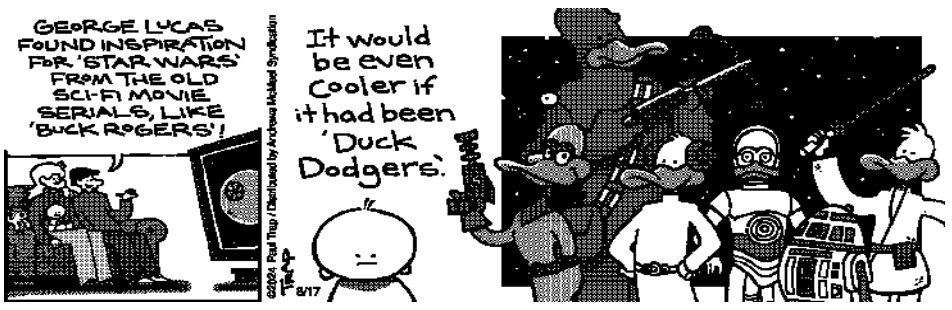
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS

NOW THAT FOOTBALL SEASON IS HERE, WHEN WILL WE EVER SPEND TIME TOGETHER ON SUNDAY?
A MONTH AND A HALF FROM TODAY
WHAT'S IN A MONTH AND A HALF?
MY BYE WEEK

THATABABY


GEORGE LUCAS FOUND INSPIRATION FOR 'STAR WARS' FROM THE OLD SCI-FI MOVIE SERIALS, LIKE 'BUCK ROGERS'!
It would be even cooler if it had been 'Duck Dodgers.'

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SODOKU PUZZLE

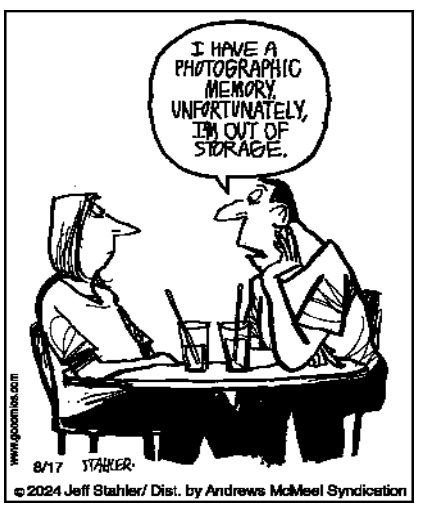
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

ANSWER ON PAGE 6

				3	2		5	1
					9		4	7
4			5					2
				2		8		
	8		3		4		2	
		9		5				
9					5			4
7	1		8					
2	6		7	9				

MODERATELY CONFUSED



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REALITY CHECK

CHARACTER ACTORS:
AT THE END OF MY LIFE, I HOPE I'LL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AS THAT GUY WHO WAS IN THAT THING!
OOO! LOOK, HONEY! ISN'T HE THAT GUY WHO WAS IN THAT THING?

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

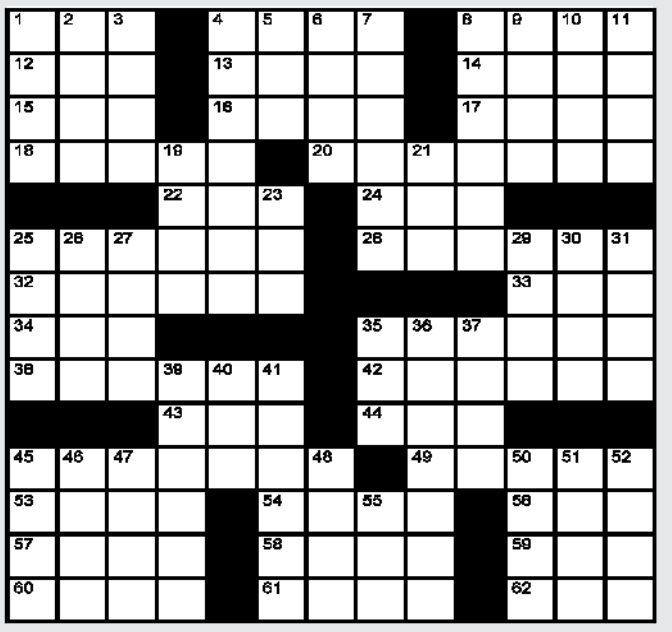
ACROSS

1 Break down in tears
4 Collar insert
8 Bridge
12 Ripken of baseball
13 "10 Things I — About You"
14 Apple remnant
15 "Eureka!"
16 Like a missing GI
17 Actress — Russo
18 Underground stem
20 Braided
22 Likely
24 Slippery —
25 "From — With Love"
28 Go
32 Out like a light
33 Company VIP
34 CIA relative
35 Role in "Friends"
38 Difficult
42 Out of the way
43 Damage
44 Newt
45 Bit of fabric
49 Does a farm job
53 Predatory bird
54 Jalopy
56 Nest egg letters
57 Frosted
58 Comic book writer — Lee
59 Excavate
60 Internet sensation
61 Round tent
62 Earlier

DOWN

1 Jazz singing
2 Hawaiian island
3 Tattle
4 Felt-tip pen
5 Playing marble
6 Surmounting
7 Shouted
8 Be frugal
9 Writer of verse
10 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
11 Require
19 Facilitate
21 Cakes and —
23 Spigot
25 Rave's partner
26 Defunct acronym
27 Do in
29 Hurt
30 Film spool
31 Informed
35 "Norma —"
36 Insult
37 Refer to
39 Get in the way of
40 Snooze
41 Like some fried food
45 Read hastily
46 Agreeable
47 Particular
48 Dancer's skirt
50 Opera by Verdi
51 Bluenose
52 Palm variety
55 Roofing material

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



8-17

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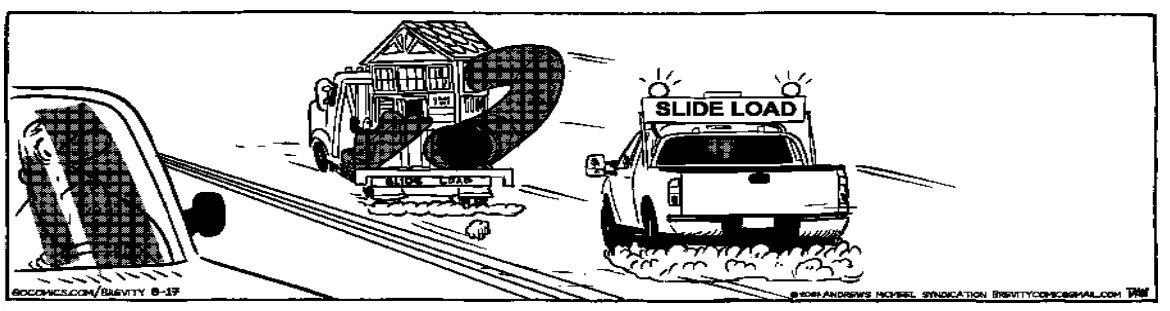
BREVITY



HEART OF THE CITY

THANKS SO MUCH FOR ALL THE BIRTHDAY GIFTS.
I REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO MISS THE PARTY LATER!
IF I'M EVER NOT AT YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY, IT'S CUZ I'M DEAD.
OR DREADFULLY SICK!
OR IN JAIL!
YOU GUYS ARE THE BEST.
LET'S GET GOING! THE PARTY STARTS SOON!

FAIR

Continued from page A1

up and visit our fair and Berrien County as a whole. They are getting a good impact from this event every year in August."

Burks said he comes away impressed with the work of the youth participants every year and that this year has been no different.

"Seeing the exhibitors and the smiles on their faces and the families walking around here that are visiting us makes the fair experience for me," he said. "When those people come out, they can have a better education on what it takes to raise animals or to raise fruits and vegetables and all the way to how to make clothing… It really is an educational piece for those people that don't typically have that opportunity to do those things. It's really nice for the exhibitors that are showing to be able to walk and talk through the processes they have to go through for all of the exhibits."

From his days participating in 4-H as a youth to volunteering as an adult, Burks has been involved with nearly every aspect of the fair. For Burks, the fair functions as a family reunion of sorts.

"You walk around this place and you can't go anywhere without meeting somebody or seeing somebody that you haven't seen in a while," Burks said. "That's what keeps me coming back. This place is just one big family."

Saturday fair schedule:

Noon – Elvis (Mall Stage); Baked Fruit Pie Contest Awards Presentation (Home Ec, Building); Overall Large Animal Showmanship Sweepstakes (Show Arena)

2 p.m. – Red Arrow (Mail Stage)

2:30 p.m. – Ag-Olympics (Show Arena)

4 p.m. – Judging of Equine; PEP Exhibitors, Riding and Showmanship Classes (Equine Complex)

5 p.m. – Larry Johnson (Mall Stage)

5:45 p.m. – Parade of Champions (Ends in Show Arena)

7 p.m. – Bullmania (Grandstand)

8 p.m. – Harbor Town (Mall Stage)

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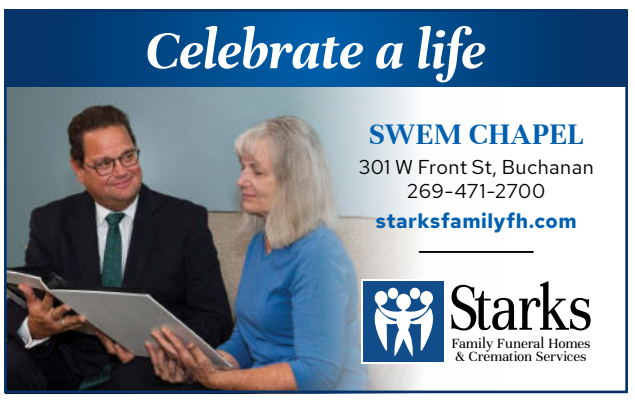

LOAN

Continued from page A1

creation of jobs for low-and moderate-income individuals. Loans may be used for land and building acquisition, construction, machinery and equipment acquisition, or for working capital. Businesses that benefit from the program are required to create one job for every $15,000 that is borrowed.

A majority of the jobs that are created must be provided to low- and moderate-income individuals. The loan request does not impact the City's General Fund. The Revolving Loan Fund currently has $277,000 available for loans.

Fourth ward councilmember Michael Thompson cast the lone dissenting vote and called the city's RLF program "shadow banking."

"Shadow banking is something that government should not be doing in the first place regardless of whether it is federal, state or local governments giving the loan… What this program does is tip the scales of success, not just in favor of those who are granted the funds, but also against those local people who compete for their survival. By giving these funds, we are also helping to crush the dreams of other local businesses proportional to the help that we are giving RadioShack.

"It was brought to my attention that a good portion of RadioShack's business deals with selling a prepaid cell service. There are many other small businesses in this area that do the same thing and by voting for this, we are now making it harder for those local businesses to survive in an already competitive market. To put this vote into a real world perspective, you are not only going to give RadioShack $30,000 in assistance but you're also voting to give thirty thousand dollars of hindrance to everyone else."

According to Roberts, the community's response to the move has been mostly positive. He is looking forward to contributing to downtown Niles' positive momentum.

"I think it's very important and awesome that they're able to do something like that because it breathes life into local small businesses that need to expand," Roberts said. "I think it's really helpful to some of us that are trying to make that happen. There are a lot of local businesses that are working on getting downtown back to the good 'ole days. It gives us the ability to offer classes and courses for the local community and teach people new skills. I think education In technology is lacking in the area and I think this will be a good boost."

For more information on Reddhill Radioshack products, visit Reddhill.com.

Guthrie Auction
Thursday, August 29, 2024
Starting at 12:00 NOON
South of South Bend, Indiana on New 31 to Kern Road exit, then east 1 block on Kern Rd. to Old US 31, then north 2 blocks to S. Main St., then north approx. 1 mile to Ritter Ave., then west 1 block at
20081 Johnson Road
South Bend, IN 46614
GUNS • AMMUNITION • FISHING EQUIPMENT • HUNTING & CAMPING ITEMS • COINS
Approximate 70 Varied Hand and Long Guns, Black Powder, Air and BB; Colt, Ruger, Glock, Smith & Wesson, Taurus, High Standard Handguns; Winchester: Model 12 in 12, 16 & 20 Ga.; 9422-63 .22 Cal.; Model 37 16 Ga.; 30-30; Browning: Lightning Skeet O/U; A-5; Light 12; BAR in 270; Weatherby: Vangard 270; Mark XXII (3); Remington: Model 700 in .22-250; 760 Game Master; Sportmaster 512; Model 11- 48; 870 20 ga.; Stevens; Berretta 303 in12 ga; Mossberg; Savage and Varied Black Powder.
NOTE: Firearms will not be on the property until auction.
Knife Sharpener and a lot of Knives; Approximate 25 Varied, Primarily Coleman, Lanterns - Red, Green, Single, Double, Other Varied Lanterns and Many Coleman Lantern Parts; Number of Reloading Books; Hunting Books; Gun Value Books and Others; Unbelievable Amount of Varied Reloading Ammo - Some Brass and Shotgun Shells; Reloading Units; MEC (6) Reloading Machines w/Varied Dies; RCBS Loaders; RCBS Punch; Scales; Brass Electric Tumbler; Sonic Cleaner; All Types of Ammunition of All Different Categories in Hand Guns, Long Rifles, Shotguns, Many More; Misc. Holsters; Large Amount of Varied Gun Cases; (15) Varied Scopes; Anything To Do with Hunting, Shooting, Reloading, Etc.; Compound Polar Bow and Other Bows; Nice Barnett RC 300 Crossbow w/Scope; New In Box Platinum by Bounty Hunter Metal Detector, Never Used; Johnson 5 hp Portable Tank-Type Outboard Motor; Misc. Older Western Saddles; Camo On-Ground Blind; Modern Baits; Large Amount of Varied Fishing Poles; Items for Ice Fishing and Open Water; Rods; Reels; Misc. Coolers; (6) Different Tackle Boxes, Full; (2) Pairs of Mickey Mouse Boots, Approximate Size 12; Heavy Duty Thermal Wear Hunting Clothing; New Carhartt Bibs; Misc. Cold Weather Mens Clothes (Mr. Guthrie was about 6'1" and 220 lbs.); Chest Waders; Heavy, Like New Sleeping Bag; New Manual Hand-Crank Corn Sheller; White Porcelain 1940s Produce Scale; (2) Egg Incubators; (2) Poultry Battery Boxes; Misc. Forks; Primitives; Pressure Canner and Approx. (14) Boxes of Canning Jars; (7) Silver Dollar Coins; (3) Morgan Coins; (4) Peace Coins; Numerous and Various One Ounce Silver Coins including $100 2004 Silver Bar.
TRUCKS • BOATS • HONDA BIG RED 3-WHEELER • SHOP TOOLS
1995 Dodge Ram Laramie SLT V10 4WD Pickup, 105,700 Miles, New Big Rubber, Runs But Lots of Rust; 2001 Chevrolet Blazer 4WD Automobile, Runs and Drives, 150k Miles, A/C with Rust; 1976 Jeep 4WD Pickup Truck, Not Been Run for Number of Years w/Snow Plow and Some Rust and Body Damage But Could Be Restored, Model J10; Bolens Model 960-02 GK All-Terrain Vehicle, Flotation Tired, Multi-Tool Cab, Gas-Powered Machine w/44" Snowblower, 48" Blade & Mower Deck; Nice 14' Aluminum Jon Boat w/5 hp Outboard and Single-Axle Trailer; 12' Aluminum Jon Boat; Four Winns 13-Passenger Model CAN, 190 Outboard Tri-Haul Boat on Single Axle Trailer, Ran Approximate 5 Years Ago, Complete w/Bikini Top; Honda Big Red 3-Wheeler, Stored Inside for Number of Years; Nice 8'x20' Truck Box w/Double Cargo Doors, Made into a Shop; Craftsman Radial Arm Saw; Craftsman 9" Face Grinder; Craftsman 6" Belt Sander; Stihl 029 Gas-Powered 18" Bar Chain Saw; Horizontal Electric Metal Band Saw; Electric Miter Saw on Stand; Craftsman Variable Speed Floor Model Drill Press w/Machinist Vise; Misc. Toolboxes; Other Misc. Hand Tools; Craftsman 3' Wood Lathe; Clamps; Wrenches; Small Cast Iron Pot Belly Stove; Craftsman Table Saw; 8" Double Wheel Grinder/Buffer; Nice Slider/Wind Press Floor Model.
NOTE: There is a lot of hunting, fishing and outdoor items. We will start on them, then go to guns, then shop tools, then vehicles and boats. The coins will be first at 12:00 p.m.
The Former Property of Bryan L. Guthrie, deceased • Kathy Guthrie, Owner
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APPLE

Continued from page A2

than bailing out mega banks."

Thompson then encouraged those in attendance to watch the film "The Big Short" to illustrate his point.

"This is yet another in an endless list of examples showing how government is simply a tool of the powerful for exploiting the lesser," he said.

In further business, council:

• Adopted a resolution to approve the City of Niles Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budget by Funds.

• Accepted the bid from Pelley Excavating of Niles, Michigan in the amount of $29,930 for the demolition of a residential structure at 1009 N. 6th Street, with the entire expense to be paid for with CDBG Funds, and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract.

• Approved the CDBG PY2024 Annual Action Plan.

• Authorized the purchase of a four-ton Hot Box from Alta Equipment Company of Byron Center, Michigan at a cost of $34,733.92 for use by the Department of Public Works, and charged the expense to the DPW Vehicle Capitol Equipment Outlay account.

• Accepted the bid from Wightman and Associates in the amount of 58,490 for professional services associated with Sycamore Street improvements, charging the expense to the Major Street fund.

• Approved a resolution authorizing the City Clerk and Mayor to execute necessary documents with MDOT relating to the relocation of utility lines at the M-51 and Fort Street intersection.

• Approved the Fiscal Agent Agreement between enFocus and the City of Niles related to Corewell Health Foundation's grant for home improvements in Niles.

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A4

giving of her heart to her family and friends. Her strength was her family and there was nothing she would not do to show her love for them. She was an extraordinary woman of faith and will be greatly missed by family and friends.

She is survived by daughters, Dornzella (Raphael, Sr.) Beecham, Nadine Booker, (Darryl Minniefield) Corine (Teron) Jackson, Stephanie (Randy) Dumas Willa Booker, all of Chicago, Gayla (Randall) Crumb White, LaMeasa (Mark) Gooden, both of Atlanta, Georgia, Jacqueline Booker and Odell Crumb Jr. both of Cassopolis.

She leaves to cherish her memory a host of grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Vera Jackson; one son, Anthony Crumb; two grandsons, Martin Jackson; James L. Gardner, one granddaughter, Tamara Tucker, one sister, Selena Jackson; and three brothers, William Jackson, Jr., James Jackson, and Joe Louis Jackson.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Deatrice be made to Gayla Crumb.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

S	O	B	■	S	T	A	Y	■	S	P	A	N
C	A	L	■	H	A	T	E	■	C	O	R	E
A	H	A	■	A	W	O	L	■	R	E	N	E
T	U	B	E	R	■	P	L	A	I	T	E	D
■	■	■	A	P	T	■	E	L	M	■	■	■
R	U	S	S	I	A	■	D	E	P	A	R	T
A	S	L	E	E	P	■	■	■	■	C	E	O
N	S	A	■	■	■	■	R	A	C	H	E	L
T	R	Y	I	N	G	■	A	F	I	E	L	D
■	■	■	M	A	R	■	E	F	T	■	■	■
S	N	I	P	P	E	T	■	R	E	A	P	S
K	I	T	E	■	A	U	T	O	■	I	R	A
I	C	E	D	■	S	T	A	N	■	D	I	G
M	E	M	E	■	Y	U	R	T	■	A	G	O

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

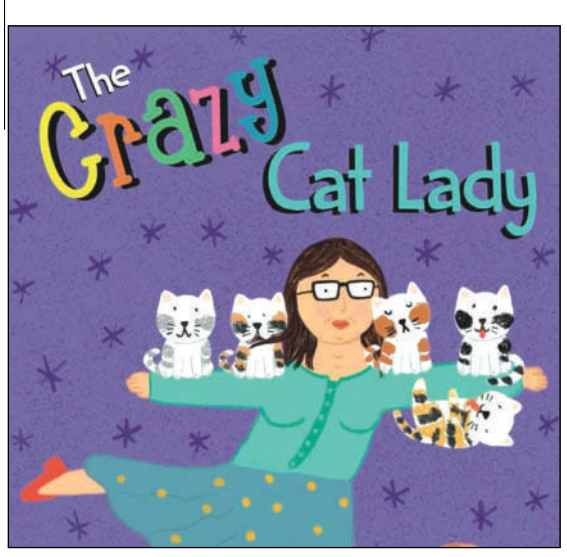
8	7	6	4	3	2	9	5	1
1	5	2	6	8	9	3	4	7
4	9	3	5	7	1	6	8	2
6	4	1	9	2	7	8	3	5
5	8	7	3	6	4	1	2	9
3	2	9	1	5	8	4	7	6
9	3	8	2	1	5	7	6	4
7	1	5	8	4	6	2	9	3
2	6	4	7	9	3	5	1	8

Buchanan man arrested for restaurant property theft

STAFF REPORT

BUCHANAN — A Buchanan man who stole property from a local restaurant was arrested Tuesday, according to the Berrien County Sheriff's Office.

The BCSO investigated the theft of property from the business of Fifteen Two Twelve, 5212 N. Redbud Trl., Buchanan. With the assistance of the Michigan State Police Southwest Enforcement Team, the property was recovered at a residence in Buchanan Township. A 44-year-old Buchanan resident, James Bouma II was arrested and lodged at Berrien County Sheriff's Office Jail on criminal charges related to the theft of property. He was arraigned Tuesday and has since bonded out of the Berrien County Jail.



SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Library to host local author's book signing

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

EDWARDSBURG — A local library will be featuring an author who is no stranger to the community.

The Edwardsburg Branch Library, 26745 Church St., Edwardsburg, will welcome Edwardsburg native and author Denise Halgren for a special storytime and meet and greet event for her book titled "The Crazy Cat Lady" from 10 a.m. to noon Monday, Aug. 19. Written by Halgren and illustrated by Bhagya Rathnaweera, the children's book follows a teacher who retires from spending all day with children to spending all day with cats.

Halgren will have copies of her book for sale and signing. The event is open to all ages, with activities to accompany the event.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet **Tasha**, a 1.5-year-old brown Tabby cat with Paws of Hope. Volunteers said she enjoys observing the activities in her foster home and has a soft, comforting purr and loves to cuddle. She is spayed, fully-vaccinated, FeLV-FIV negative and ready for a loving home. Please contact Paws of Hope at information@pawsofhope.org to learn more.

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MAYOR

Continued from page A1

recall was certified in May. "It was not about me ever," he said. "It was the people who got snookered who had had an ounce of hope that something would be done about their water bills, taxes and the infrastructure of neighborhoods."

The city's involvement with the Michigan Main Street program also appears to be in limbo with the resignation of the city's assistant community development director, Ashley Regal. Regal had been spearheading the city's efforts with LiveBuchanan relative to Michigan Main Street and the new small business incubator.

The city commission had been scheduled to take up the Michigan Main Street resolution including financial support for LiveBuchanan at their next meeting on Aug. 26. City Manager Tim Lynch said after the meeting that it's still up in the air whether the matter will be taken up again then.

Lynch did said that he expects Regal's position to be filled at some point in the future. He noted that the deadline to approve the Michigan Main Street resolution appears to be more flexible than initially thought last month. Regal had initially said that the city needed to act by the end of August or wait three years to apply again.

Monday's meeting featured action on giving Lynch a pay raise after his annual evaluation done in a closed session earlier in the meeting. Commissioners gave him an overall positive evaluation which according to his contract bumps his annual salary from $104,000 to $110,000 retroactive to July 1.

Lynch was the interim city manager for a number of months last year and then was hired back after the city parted ways with Eldridge last November. His contract is currently for one year and the action taken Monday doesn't extend the length of the contract.

Monday's meeting featured action on approving updated by-laws for the Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service. SMCAS Director Brian Scribner said the by-laws are being updated in light of plans to take on serving the Dowagiac area and other parts of Cass County in the near future. Dowagiac lost their ambulance service suddenly last year.

Scribner said the new by-laws makes it clearer as to how owner municipalities can be added or subtracted and how the service can contract to serve other areas. The by-laws change had to be approved by all six member municipalities and Buchanan was the last one to give its approval.

He gave more details about the Cass County venture as well as a possible merger with Medic 1, the service that covers much of the rest of Berrien County. He said there is a temporary agreement to serve Cass County and he expects a permanent agreement in the next couple of months. As for Medic 1, he said such a merger could be beneficial to both parties.

News came as well that the Buchanan Area Senior Center is going to relocate temporarily to its former home in the Red Bud City Center on South Oaks Street in September as the parking lot at their current home on Rynearson is torn out and rebuilt. Center Director Adam Burck said the parking lot will cost the center $300,000.

MILLAGE

Continued from page A1

absent.

The city's taxable value is $271,204,901. A 1.5 mil millage would generate approximately $406,807 per year, which translates to $150 per year per $100,000 in taxable value for the property owner.

"I'm glad we're bringing this to the public," said City of Niles Mayor Nick Shelton. "(A splash pad) is a topic I've heard about longer than the eight years I've been in office and one of the highest demands that members of our community have had and I'm glad we're bringing it back to the citizens to make that decision. I'm interested to see how that goes in November."

Over the past several years, the council has discussed the possibility of requesting a millage to address park infrastructure. According to city officials, the city's park youth play structures are at or near end of life. A full play structure is $150,000 or more depending on features. Park picnic shelters are due for replacement at many locations and the park trail system is due for trail surface replacement.

The council noted that community members have been quite vocal about wanting the addition of a spray pad feature. Depending on the scope, spray pad features are typically between $250,000 to $450,000 to construct, according to city officials, with annual operating costs of $20,000 or more per year. With this November being a presidential election, the council believes this proposal is an opportunity to put the question of park improvements and a spray feature before the most voters. If the proposal is approved, the council will be tasked with approving a detailed budget for the projects that would be available to the public.

Fourth ward councilmember Michael Thompson cast the lone dissenting vote, a "hard no."

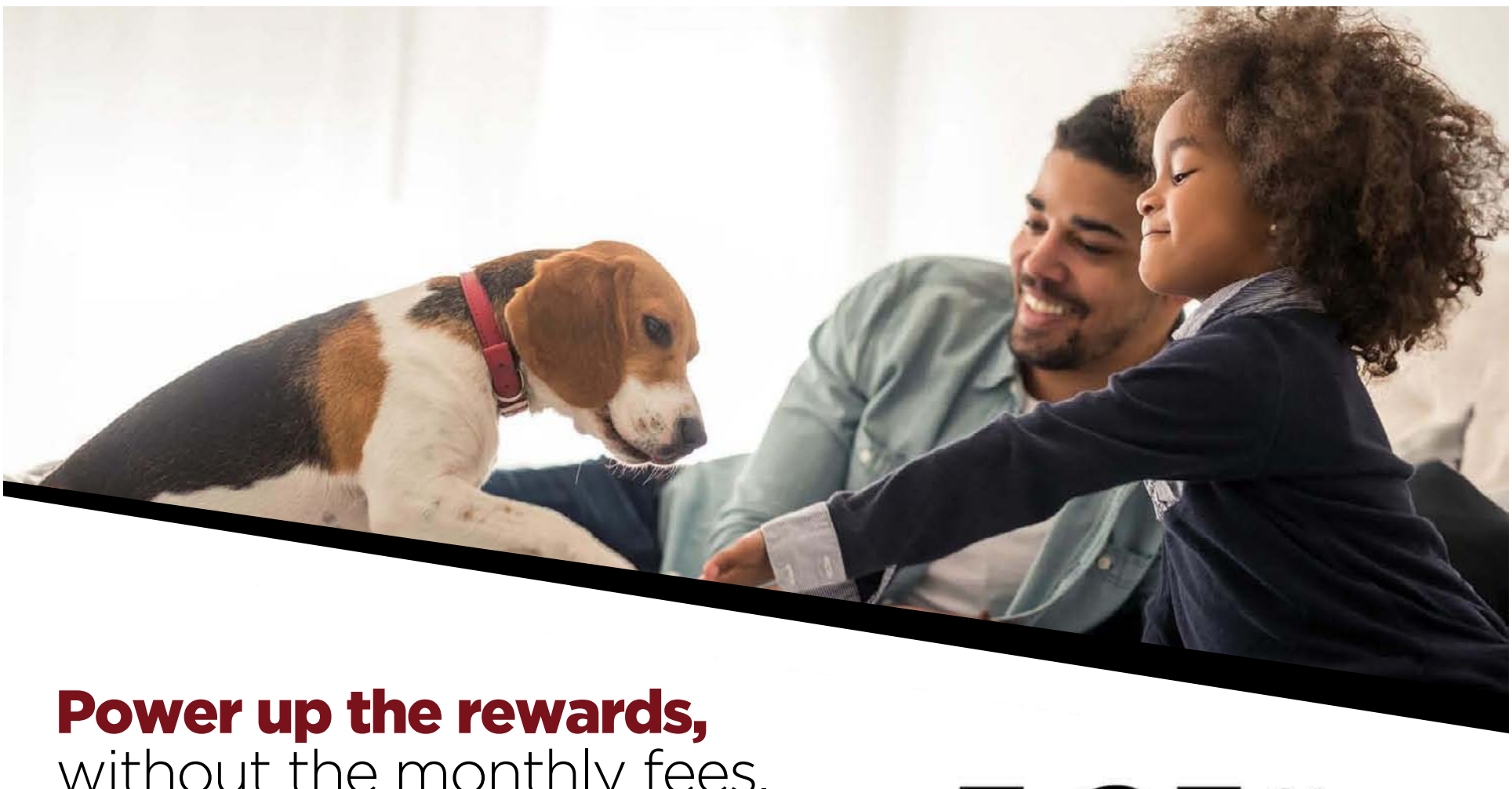
"It is astounding to me that people think it's OK to use other people's resources for whatever idiotic idea pops into their mind," he said. "In the 1920s, local parks, for the most part – you actually had to pay to go to them and that reduced the number of parks. Niles right now has twenty-something parks and I believe none of them are in the fourth ward and yet somehow, the people in the fourth ward are able to survive; life continues to go on. Let's stop stealing other people's resources."

According to the city website, Ward 4 has three parks – F.O.P. Park, Island Park and French Field.

Below is the official ordinance language approved by the City of Niles:

City of Niles Park Maintenance Millage

Shall the City of Niles impose a new millage and thus an increase of up to 1.5 mills ($1.50 per $1,000 of taxable value) in the tax limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 31 of the Michigan Constitution and levy it for four (4) years, 2024 through 2027 inclusive, to provide funding for city-wide park construction and maintenance, including but not limited to, trail maintenance, equipment replacement, construction of a spray pad, and associated maintenance, which 1.5 mills increase will raise an estimated $406,807.37 in 2024 of which a portion will be disbursed to the Main Street Downtown Development Authority, and such other local units of government determined appropriate or required.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HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

MHSAA participation rises for third straight year

COMMUNITY REPORT

EAST LANSING — Participation in Michigan High School Athletic Association-sponsored sports rose for the third-straight school year in 2023-24 — this time by nearly one percent — and continued to do so despite another 2-percent decrease in school enrollment among the MHSAA's 754 member high schools.

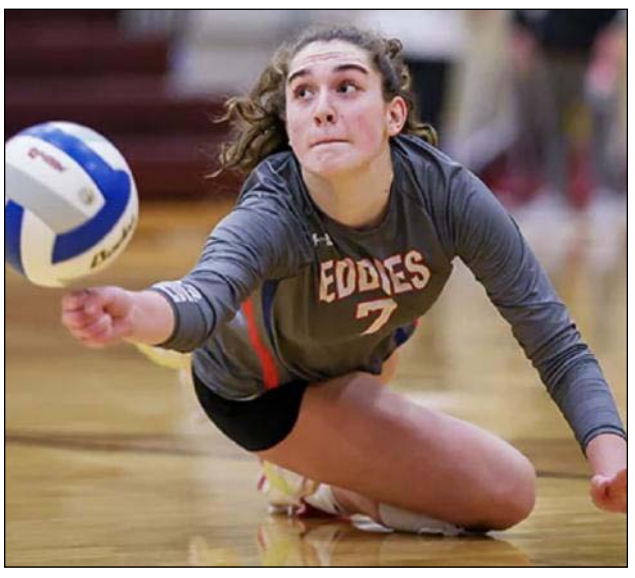
A total of 270,664 participants were counted across the 28 sports for which the MHSAA sponsors postseason tournaments — a 0.97-percent increase from 2022-23 and despite a 1.8-percent decrease in MHSAA member school enrollment. Boys participation rose 1.1 percent to 158,260, despite a 1.8 percent decrease in boys enrollment. Girls participation rose 0.7 percent to 112,377, while girls enrollment dipped 1.9 percent from the previous school year.

MHSAA participation totals count students once for each sport in which they participate, meaning students who are multiple-sport athletes are counted more than once. The boys participation total for 2023-24 was its highest since 2018-19, predating the sharp decrease brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-21 school year.

Only 11 sports saw increases in participation during 2023-24 — compared to 18 sports that reported increases between 2021-22 and 2022-23. However, two sports set participation records this past school year. Girls golf reported 3,936 athletes, an increase of 6.2 percent from the previous year and that sport's most since 2002-03. Girls lacrosse broke its record set in 2019-20 with 3,245 athletes, up nine-tenths of a percent from the previous year.

Wrestling reported the largest increase in participation for the second-straight school year, this time by 12.8 percent with 11,814 athletes — and the rise again mostly attributable to the rapid growth in girls participation in the sport, which jumped another 39 percent with 1,216 wrestlers this past season. Girls tennis enjoyed the next largest

See MHSAA, Page B3



JEFF DOUGLAS | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

MHSAA Begins 100th Anniversary Celebration

COMMUNITY REPORT

LANSING — As fall sports teams begin practice today and competitions over the next few weeks, the Michigan High School Athletic Association will be celebrating a milestone throughout the school year.

This will be the 100th anniversary of the creation of the MHSAA, which considers its first day to be Dec. 13, 1924. Throughout the school year, the MHSAA will be highlighting its century of school sports during our MHSAA Tournament events, with focused website content and in several more ways.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

FALL SPORTS
PRACTICE GETS UNDER WAY

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

The 2024 fall sports season officially got underway on Monday as practices were allowed to begin.

Local teams in girls and boys cross country, football, Lower Peninsula girls golf, boys soccer, Lower Peninsula girls swimming & diving, Lower Peninsula boys tennis and girls volleyball began practice as they prepare to compete this fall. Dowagiac football coach Duane Davis was happy to see his team take the field for another season.

"They were all excited,

See FALL, Page B3

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Niles and Dowagiac football teams take part in fall practices Wednesday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Calvin football team reports for inaugural season

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

GRAND RAPIDS — The 112 members of the 2024 Calvin University football team reported to campus on Tuesday, August 13.

The Knights are in preparation for their inaugural 2024 season which will begin on September 7 with a home game against Oberlin College on the campus of nearby Grand Rapids Christian High School. Dowagiac graduate Isaiah Hill is a freshman on the team and will be sporting No. 42 this year, the same number his cousin, Caleb Murphy, wears for the Tennessee Titans of the National Football League.

As part of the first reporting to preseason camp, the players were treated to a new locker room facility that is located on the north side of Calvin's main athletics complex. The locker room will be the home of the Knights and will eventually mesh with the anticipated Calvin football stadium that is planned to be built just east of the locker room and adjacent Calvin soccer stadium.

Below is the schedule for Calvin's inaugural season:

Sept. 7 – Oberlin, 1 p.m.

Sept. 14 – AT Concordia (Wisc.), 1 p.m.

Sept. 21 – AT Anderson University (Ind.), 1 p.m.

Sept. 28 – AT Kalamazoo College, 6:30 p.m.

Oct. 5 – Alma, 1 p.m.

Oct. 12 – BYE

Oct. 19 – AT Adrian, 3 p.m.

Oct. 26 – AT Trine, 1 p.m.

Nov. 2 – AT Olivet, 1 p.m.

Nov. 9 – Hope, 1 p.m.

Nov. 16 – Albion, 1 p.m.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRISTIAN FRAZIER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Calvin University unveiled its new football locker room facility Tuesday.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

FILE | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

VanDenBerg Tournament takes place Saturday at 2 sites

By SCOTT NOVAK
scott.novak@leaderpub.com

NILES — With the construction of Niles High School's new softball field removing the grass soccer field, the VanDenBerg Invitational will return to its original format of matches being played at two sites on Saturday.

Brandywine High School will host the semifinal between the Bobcats and Buchanan Bucks, while Niles will host Cassopolis in the other semifinal. Both semifinals are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m.

The championship match, set for 12:15 p.m., will be hosted by Niles with the consolation match set for the same time at Brandywine.

Each match will consist of 30-minute halves. In event of a tie, a shootout will decide the winners.

Admission is $7 per person at both sites.

Last year, Niles reclaimed its championship last August after Cassopolis snapped the Vikings' 11-year winning streak. It was the Rangers' first-ever VanDenBerg title.

Niles opened the tournament with a 7-1 win over rival Brandywine in the championship match. The Vikings reached the finals by defeating Cassopolis 5-1 in the semifinals to gain a measure of revenge.

The Bobcats advanced to the title tilt with a 2-1 come-from-behind victory over Buchanan, which hosted the tournament.

Game results will be posted on leaderpub.com.

COLLEGE HOCKEY

Notre Dame hockey to face Penn State at Wrigley Field

COMMUNITY REPORT

CHICAGO — The Big Ten Conference and Chicago Cubs announced the schedule for the 2025 Frozen Confines: Big Ten Hockey Series in a joint statement Thursday.

The University of Notre Dame hockey team will compete against Penn State on Friday, January 3, 2025, as part of a four-game event between Big Ten programs.

The trip to Wrigley Field in 2025 marks the fourth outdoor game appearance for the program in the modern era having previously played at Soldier Field, Fenway Park and Notre Dame Stadium. The Irish most recently played an outdoor game during the 2018-19 season when they hosted Michigan inside Notre Dame Stadium.

All tickets for this event will be sold through Wrigley Field. A variety of presales will be available to priority access groups at 10 a.m. CST on the following dates:

August 27 – 2024 Hockey Season Ticket Members

August 28 – All other 2024-25 Notre Dame Athletics Season Ticket Members, including premium groups

August 29 – Notre Dame Football ticket lottery participants, and priority access subscribers

Instructions on how to access the presale will be distributed to eligible fans via email.

Tickets will go on sale to the general public on Friday, August 30, at 11 a.m. and are available at Cubs.com/BigTenHockey.

The full Big Ten slate will be announced at a later date.

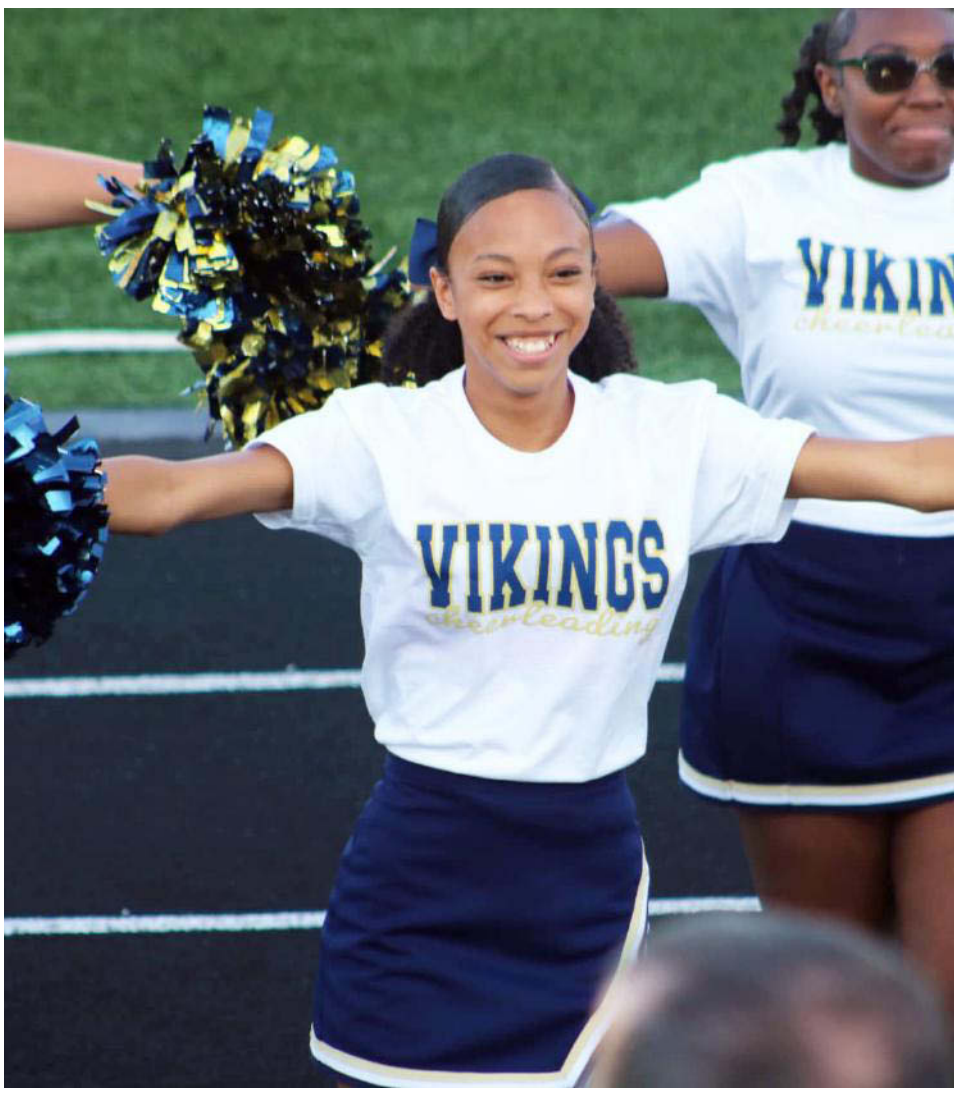
Niles hosts fall sports pep rally

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Fans packed the Viking Stadium stands Monday evening to usher in another school year with athletes from every fall sport.

Niles High School hosted its annual Fall Sports Pep Rally. Organized by the Niles High School Student Council, the event featured performances by the Niles High School Marching Band and cheerleader and included Fall 2024 sports team introductions, games and more.



MHSAA

Continued from page B1

participation jump, increasing 9.1 percent with 8,911 athletes, that sport's most since 2018-19.

Both girls and boys track & field increased for the third-straight year, girls by 5.2 percent to 17,325 competitors and boys 2.9 percent to 23,888. Boys lacrosse (up 3.9 percent to 5,236 athletes) and boys golf (up 3.3 percent to 7,222) also joined their girls counterparts in those sports in trending upward.

Boys soccer (up 5.1 percent to 13,953 athletes), girls competitive cheer (3.9 percent to 6,172) and football (11 and 8-player combined — 0.5 percent to 35,174) also showed increases. Football remains the most-played sport statewide with more than 11,000 more athletes than the next highest, boys track and field, and the 2023-24 football participation total was that sport's highest since 2018-19. Boys basketball (20,199 participants), girls volleyball (19,119) and girls track and field ranked third through fifth, respectively, among the state's most-played sports this past school year.

Although 17 sports saw lower participation in 2023-24 than the previous year, five experienced decreases smaller than the overall 1.8-percent loss in enrollment at member schools — boys ice hockey (-0.03 percent with just one fewer participant than in 2022-23), girls soccer (-0.3 percent), girls volleyball (-0.8 percent), boys tennis (-1.2 percent), boys cross country (-1.3 percent) and girls softball (-1.5 percent). Girls cross country just missed that line with only a 1.9-percent decrease from the previous year.

The participation figures are gathered annually from MHSAA member schools to submit to the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) for compiling of its national participation survey. Results of Michigan surveys from the 2000-01 school year to present may be viewed on the MHSAA Website – www.mhsaa.com – by clicking on Schools > Administrators > Sports Participation Listing.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

Niles and Dowagiac football teams take part in fall practices Wednesday.

FALL

Continued from page B1

which was a plus," he said. "They all had smiles on their faces when we hit the field on Monday and they were ready to go, which is exciting. We had a long, hard offseason. Our weight room, they hit it hard. We had almost a 90 percent attendance rate for the weight room, which was good."

Competition can begin starting Aug. 16 for golf, cross country, tennis and soccer, Aug. 21 for volleyball and Aug. 29 for varsity football. Football teams at all levels must have 12 days of preseason practice – over a period of 16 calendar days – before their first game.

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August 23rd and 24th
Starting 9am until
House Hold Items, Tools, clothes, and Craft Items, etc..
Too Many Items to Mention!

Put your ad here
call 269-591-6105.

Merchandise

Antiques & Collectibles

Allegan Antiques Market
Michigan's Finest Antique Show
August 25, 2024
Hundreds of Dealers
Indoors and Outdoors
www.alleganantiques.com

YOHO'S TREASURE MARKET
INDOOR
FLEA MARKET
AND MORE!
ANTIQUES COLLECTIBLES FURNITURE
Booths' Available!
Now Renting from $75+!
Yoho's Treasure Market!
1420 S 11th st.
Niles, MI 49120
Contact Laura Yoho
574-323-0423

Computers & Software

WOW Computer
Includes privacy hookups $500 Cash
Walter
269-462-0782
269-782-6365

Food & Produce

Give Us A Call To Place Your Classified Ad
269-591-6105

The Bath or Shower You've Always Wanted
IN AS LITTLE AS A DAY

$1000 OFF*
AND
No Payments & No Interest For 18 Months**
OFFER EXPIRES 6/30/24

BCI BATH & SHOWER
CALL NOW (844) 945-1631

*Includes product and labor; bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires 6/30/24. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. **Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2024 BCI Acrylic, Inc.

Kuseske Estate Auction
Tuesday, August 20 @ 10:00 A.M.

Located: 26897 Gage St, Dowagiac, MI 49047

Equipment: Case CX 50 w/ Cab& Loader* AC 190 XT* IH "H * IH * MM "R"* AC Gleaner F Combine w/ heads* Manure Spreader* Gravity Wagon* Hay Rake* 3 Pt Disk* Pull Dozer* 3 Bottom Plow* 3 Pt Post Auger* Hay Wagon* **Bulldozer:** IH Bulldozer w/ blade* 3 Pt Backhoe * **Truck & Trailers:** 2001 3/4 ton Chevy Pickup* 1985 3/4 Chevy 20 Pickup* 2 Hauling Trailers * Coachmen Fifth Wheel Camper* **Shop Tools:** Drill Press* Large Vise* Metal Lathe* Shaper* Wood Planer* **Antiques & Collectibles:** Copper Stihl* Maestro Print* Victrola* Bakers Cabinet* Primitive Feed Box* Cross Cut Saws* Corn Sheller* Whiskey Decanters* Jewelry & Purses* Collectible Glassware* Crocks* Cast Iron Pans* Guitar* Wood Barrel* Wood Crates* Vintage Quilts* **Misc:** Cub Cadet Lawn Tractor w/ Loader* **Motorcycles:** Kawasaki 250* Honda 250*
BigBearAuctionCompany.com
Jerry & Aimee Glassman* 269-757-3313

Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
Hard Disk Size 256 GB
CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
Operating System Mac OS
Special Feature IPS Retina Display, True Tone Technology, Touch Bar | Touch ID Sensor
Graphics Card Description Integrated
Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

Call (269)462-0183

Want to Buy Merchandise

WANTED
STANDING TIMBER
Large Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking land owners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell
Call: (517)566-8061
qualityhardwoodsinc.com

Pets & Livestock

Livestock

LAGGIS FISH FARM
FISH FOR STOCKING
MOST VARIETIES
Ponds & Lakes
Laggis Fish Farm
(269)628-2056 Days
(269)624-6215 Evenings

Notices

General Notices

NEED TO SELL SOME FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, OR EVEN YOUR CAR??
CALL THE CLASSIFIEDS AND ADVERTISE NOW!
269-591-6105

Community Events

University of Notre Dame du Lac in Notre Dame, Indiana, duLac@nd.edu

Rentals

Apartments

Fairview Apartments
Cassopolis, MI
Accepting applications for one and two bedroom apartments; rent based on income.
Includes all utilities.
Eligibility requirements.
Preference given to applicants whose income is below
$17,750 for 1 person;
$20,440 – 2 persons;
$25,820 – 3 persons;
$31,200 – 4 persons.
Call **269-273-7841** for info or to request an application.
Equal Housing Opportunity

Karl King Holdings,LLC
"Where The City's Finest Call Home"
NOW LEASING!!!
•Pet Friendly
•Utilities Included
•Income-Based Rent Apartments for Independent Seniors(62-up, handicap/disabled)
515 E.Monroe Street
South Bend,IN 46601
574-282-2896
TTY:1-800-743-3333

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Standard & Accessible Units Now Available
One bedroom independent living apartments available for older adults (62 and older) & physically handicapped (55 and older). Annual income not to exceed $33,800 for couples and $29,550 for single. Rent based on 30% of net income. Rent includes heat, electric, water, trash, satellite TV, and a/c.
For more information, contact Sheryl DeRyder, Manager
Stone Lake Woods, Inc.
335 W. State St.
Cassopolis, MI
269-445-8040

Wanted To Rent

Looking for Large Storage Space in Niles or Buchanan Area. All items are clean, no junk. Call (269)262-0162

Transportation

Automobiles

2020 Hyundai Elantra-Red
68,000 Miles.
Only $750 down!
$325 a month! No Interest!
No banks!
We do all our financing in house!
Call Scarlett Auto Sales today and ask about stock #1892!
269-461-4197

2021 Kia Forte-Grey
17,394 Miles.
Only $750 down!
$325 a month!
No Interest! No banks!
We do all our financing in house!
Call Scarlett Auto Sales today and ask about stock # 1903!
Call 269-461-4197

FOR SALE: 2017 Ford Fusion
106,000 miles
One owner, well-take care of
$12,000 OBO
(269)635-1777

Boats & Watercraft

14ft Starcraft Deep V, 8 HP Mercury Motor,
Trolling Motor, Trailer, accessories-$2,800 OBO
269-861-9489

1979 Starcraft 18' Aluminum Deep V 110hp Johnson & Trailer (269)683-2400

2015 Polar Kraft TX 165 Bass Fishing Boat
Boat has very low mileage. Seller mainly used the trolling motor. Didn't have much time for fishing. Price is for boat, Trailmaster trailer, trolling motor, Mercury BigFoot 60 HP boat motor and fish finder equipment.
If I do not answer, leave a message.
Pictures available via text.
$17,900.00 OBO.
574-850-1938
269-228-1216

Motorcycles & ATV's

1999 Kawasaki Voyager 12 Touring Bike New Carlisle Area. Good condition. 80k road miles. $2,000 firm. Call 574-220-4275 or 574-234-8038

Services

Asphalt & Paving

TODD BAILEY
ASPHALT SEALING
Licensed & Insured
44 Years Experience

Have a driveway that lasts! Protect your investment!
269-277-8827
Call or Text 24/7
$69 OFF
Asphalt work, pothole repair & patching with coupon. Call for Details!

Clock Repair

Quality Clock Repair
Front Street Framery
801 East Front Street
Buchanan, MI
House calls, Free estimates.
269-409-1031

Concrete Work

BRADY CONCRETE
Specializing in:
•Flat work of all types
•Seawalls•Pole Barn Floors
•Stamped Concrete
•Bobcat Services
Free Estimates, Insured
Fast, Dependable Service
269-445-3349 or
269-591-0100

Construction

Michiana Masonry & Construction
All your Masonry needs!
Chimney Cleaning
Insured & Bonded
Senior Discounts
269-362-1566

SLIM'S CONSTRUCTION
WE SPECIALIZE IN POLE BARNS ROOFING & CONCRETE
65280 M-66
STURGIS, MI 49091
SAM SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

Handyman Services

Joe Hess Remodeling and Construction
Over 25 yrs Experience
Licensed and Insured
269-362-3355-Cell
269-684-0349-Home

•Replacement Windows
•Exterior Doors
•Storm Doors
•Minor Electric
•Light Fixtures
•Minor Plumbing
•Most Home Repairs

Home Health Aides

CALL US TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD!
269-591-6105

Junk Removal

AMERICAN TRASH
Trash & Junk Hauling
•Appliances•Truck•Trailer
•Labor•Rental Properties
•Demo Clean-Outs
Veteran Owned Company
Txt/Call: 574-904-8760
useamericantrash.com

Miscellaneous Services

AMISH FURNITURE
Amish Log Beds, Dressers, Rustic Table and Chairs, Mattresses for Cabin or Home. Lowest price in Michigan!
DanDanTheMattressMan.com
989-923-1278

AUCTION
August Consignment Online Auction, Aug. 22-26. 1996 Geo Tracker, Harley Davidson Road King, tractors, power washers, firearms, hand tools, power tools, generators, and more! To bid, see catalog visit NarhiAuctions.com.
810-266-6474.

Cook Presidential Memorabilia Live & Webcast Auction. Pre-bidding now open, live auction in Leslie starts 10 a.m., Aug. 24. Hundreds of items, autographs, photos, pins, more. Visit EpicAuctions.com for more information.

Doug's Small Engine Online Inventory Reduction Auction through Aug. 27. Lawn tractors, mowers, blower, zero turns, parts and more! To see entire catalog, bid, see other auctions visit Bid.SherwoodAuctionServiceLLC.com. Call 1-800-835-0495.

(3) Nice Online Estate Auctions bidding is open. Tools, decoys, sporting, trailers, collectibles! Bid anywhere anytime @JohnPeckAuctions.com. Need An Auction? Call John Peck 989-426-8061. Statewide Since 1979. Offices Charlotte & Gladwin.

BUILDINGS
BUILT RITE POLE BUILDINGS State-wide. Prices starting at - 24x40x10 - $18,300.00. 30x40x10 -$20,400.00. Erected on your site. Call for price not shown on any size building or go to www.builtritepolebuildingsmi.com. Or call 989-259-2015 or 989-600-1010.

BUSINESS SERVICES
METAL ROOFING regular and shingle style, HALF OFF SPECIAL COLORS! Lifetime hail asphalt shingles. Vinyl siding. Licensed and insured builders for 40 years. AMISH CREW. 800-983-0462.

MATTRESSES
Adjustable Bed Brand New with mattress. Made is U.S.A., in plastic, with warranty. Retail cost $3,995.00, sacrifice for $875.00. Call for showing or delivery: DanDanTheMattressMan.com 989-832-1866

MEDICAL
VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Generic Pills SPECIAL $99.00! 100% guaranteed. 24/7 CALL NOW! 888-835-7273 Hablamos Espano

MISCELLANEOUS
AMISH BUILT storage sheds and mini cabins delivered to your site anywhere in Michigan! Starting at $2,500.00 mynextbarn.com 989-832-1866

AMISH BUILT MINI CABIN 12 x 24 $10,900.00. New construction, delivery included. Call for details, other sizes &

Miscellaneous Services

options. 989-832-1866

POND/LAKE
Pond/Lake Weed Removal Tools (The #1 alternative to chemicals.) Performs C.P.R. Cuts-Pulls-Rakes. Michigan Veteran Made. Still $150, no price increase! 989-529-3992. WeedgatorProducts.com.

Get DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To $600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-866-950-6757

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase* Call 1-855-922-0420 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material – steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer – 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-888-718-1856

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. Plus 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-844-369-2501

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call:1-844-587-8518

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-877-691-4117 today!

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 888-815-6233

PROFESSIONAL LAWN SERVICE: Fertilization, weed control, seeding, aeration and mosquito control. Call now for a free quote. Ask about our first application special! 1-877-411-0998

Prepare for power outages with Briggs & Stratton PowerProtect(TM) standby generators - the most powerful home standby generators available. Industry-leading comprehensive warranty – 7 years ($849 value.) Proudly made in the U.S.A. Call Briggs & Stratton 1-855-303-4767.

Want a greener lawn? TruGreens your go-to for a tailored lawn care plan. Act now and get 50% off your first service with a purchase of an annual plan. Call us at 1-855-608-1458 to learn more

Acculevel. Your foundation repair and basement waterproofing experts. Whether basement, crawl space or concrete slab we'll guide you on the right path to a healthy home. Act now! Up to $600 off. Restrictions apply. Call for a free consultation. 1-844-700-4986

Do you know what's in your water? Leaf Home Water Solutions offers FREE water testing and whole home water treatment systems that can be installed in as little one day. 15% off your entire purchase. Plus 10% senior & military discounts. Restrictions apply. Schedule your FREE test today. Call 1-844-488-2950

Painting & Decorating

PAINTING!
Interior & Exterior Jobs
30 years experience
Reasonable Rates
269-683-8219
269-240-7912

Pressure Washing

J&H POWER WASHING HOUSES, DRIVEWAYS, DECKS, FENCING, RV'S/MOTOR HOMES.
WHY CALL THE REST WHEN YOU CAN CALL THE BEST?
(269) 684-5947
(269) 340-2440
(269) 357-9594

Roofing and Guttering

MIDWEST ROOFING
Family Owned Since 1984
Lifetime Warranty Shingles
Flat Roofs & Gutter Covers
Call (269) 684-7199

Roofing and Guttering

Bill's Roof Repair
Residential & Commercial
•Repairs•New Roofs
•Shingles•Flat Roofs
•Metal/Rubber•Flashing
•Chimney Repairs
•Vent Pipes•Gutters•Sidings
Lifetime Warranty on All Labor Performed
Free Estimates
Call Us Now!!
269-591-5700
Visit us at:
billsroofrepair.com and Facebook!!

Timber & Forestry Services

GRIMES TREE SERVICE
SPECIALIZING IN STORM DAMAGE CLEANUP AND REMOVAL OF DANGEROUS TREES IN DIFFICULT LOCATIONS.
269-783-6493 OR 269-716-0241.
53 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
"A+ REFERENCES"

Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Abandoned vehicle auction. August 22, 2024 at 8:30 AM.
2011 Hyundai
Vin#5NPDH4AE5BH020035
2000 Nissan
Vin # 5N1ED28Y3YC540304
2013 Hyundai
Vin # 5NPEC4AC7DH635643
Contact Road Runner towing at 269-429-5080 for viewing locations and times.
Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5 Pm. Betting starts at acquired fees and social distancing. Rules still apply.

Niles Daily Star:
Aug. 17, 2024
AV/11 HYUNDAI

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by Niles City Council at the **City Council Chambers, 1345 E. Main Street (Niles Fire Station) NILES, MI 49120**, August 26th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Local Time, to receive comments from the public on the proposed Electric, Water and Wastewater Rate Adjustments.
At said hearing ratepayers, property owners and any other resident and/or taxpayer of the City, Niles Charter Township, Bertrand Charter Township, Howard Charter Township and Milton Township receiving city electric, water or wastewater service shall have the right to appear and be heard.
The City of Niles will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those individuals with disabilities who wish to attend its public meetings upon receiving at least one week's notice. Any such individual requiring such aids or services should contact the City by writing or calling the following:
City of Niles
ADA Coordinator
333 N. 2
nd Street, Ste. 301
Niles, Michigan 49120

269/683-4700 or 269/683-1313 to access the TDD (Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) for individuals with hearing or speech impairment.

TINA BERGMAN
NILES CITY CLERK
269/683-4700 X 3030

Niles Daily Star:
Aug. 17, 2024
HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE

The August 8, 2024, Bertrand Charter Township Board Regular Meeting draft minutes have been posted at the Bertrand Charter Township Hall, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107 and on the township website (bertrandtwpmi.gov). Respectfully, Polly White, Clerk Bertrand Charter Township

Niles Daily Star:
Aug. 17, 2024
MEETING

PUBLIC NOTICE

AUCTION
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024 @ 10:00
STORE MORE STORAGE INC
29813 US 12
NILES, MI 49120

UNIT #31 & #137
ASHLEY & STEVE POFF

UNIT #47
SHAWN HARRISON

UNIT #56
SCOTT RICHARDS

UNIT #82
MICHELLE SMITH

UNITS #100, #104, #136
DAVE KRAMER

UNIT #148
ASHLEY WILDS

Niles Daily Star:
Aug. 17 and 24, 2024
STORAGE AUCTION

PUBLIC NOTICE

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday August 31, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Unit#	Name
16	Tyson Fuller
52/53	Robert Valentie
60	Purnell Martin
67	Jerom Jankowiak
93	Dakota Hettinger
95	Philip Sherwood
108	Terry Riege
114	Tellie Doan
116	Melissa Kaeding
119	Kyle Tracey
127/633	Chris Norris
145/468	Michael Merritt
148	Gloster Johnson
164	Brady Hattenback
166	Crystal Tripp
184/66	Mary Anderson
191	Alan Smith
217	James Russell
228/367	Shawnette Booker
246	Missi Stanfill
268	Dan Hoft
273	Tony Pompey
284	Kathleen Peterson
289	Janay Goins
321	James Browning
342	Terrence Moss
346	DaMonica Williams
347	Michelle Myers
356	Chase Molica
379	Bobbie Helms
389	Parnell Jenkins
410/534	Rebecca Coleman
451	Jean Fitch
486	Leigh Anne Norris
501	Kyle Visel-Kelly
506	Donna Haynes
514	Christopher Kohut
519	Dan Grimm
541	Nicole Hurt
545	Candy Whitmire
556	Matt Mazingo
605	Michael Lewark
613	Nicola Jones
628/499	Altavious Stone
657	Andrew Jones
661	Rodney Prescott
671	James Roman

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday August 31, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

29	Michelle Hafley
30	Curtis Sheldon
49	Miranda Wendzel
57	Nathan Haynes
59/38	Roxie Kiefer

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday August 31, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.

33	Tammera Carbon
60	Samantha Williams
97	Blake King
200A	Mike Nidiffer
128	Rachael Lonsbury
130	Cory Tucker
161/169	Chris Miller
168	Jerol Williams Jr.
228	Destiny Martin
238/466	James Diss
263	Tamara Holmes
301	Rebecca Nichols
327/69	Robert Davis
343	Linda Morris
404/499	April Christy
410/333	Tina Hollis
426	James Schilling Jr.
498	James Roman
511	Christy Waggoner

Niles Daily Star:
Aug. 17 and 24, 2024
STORAGE AUCTION

Need to find the right employee?
WE CAN HELP.
Reach the county for less using Leader Publications classifieds. Need a quick quote? Submit your ad online at LeaderPub.com. Call 269-591-6105.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BERRIEN COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. and JUDGE
2024-0592-DE-G
Hon. Gordon G. Hosbein
Court address 811 Port Street Floor 4 St. Joseph, MI 49085
Court telephone no. 269-983-7111

Estate of Mary Frances Burton, Deceased
Date of birth: April 16, 1926
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Mary Frances Burton, died April 8, 2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Martha Vicari, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, Floor 4 St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Martha Vicari 1135 Shoreland Drive Niles, MI 49120 269-479-6177

James J. Mollison, P17884, 4 South Lincoln Avenue, Niles, MI 49120, 269-684-7600

Niles Daily Star:
Aug. 17, 2024
EST/BURTON, M.

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
CASS COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate
CASE NO. 2024-0651-DE-G
Hon Gordon G Hosbein

Estate of Jenny Marie Johnson
Date of birth: 02-04-1928
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Jenny Marie Johnson, died 6-22-2024. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Kathy Jo Sullivan, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port St., St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Niles Daily Star:
Aug. 17, 2024
EST/JOHNSON, J.

DEALS ON WHEELS

WE TAKE CARE OF YOUR FINANCING!!

ON THE SPOT APPROVAL

2000 FORD RANGER STEPSIDE 4 X 4
XLT, V-6, newer engine and transmission VERY RARE
Only $5,900

2009 NISSAN CUBE
Just in!!
Super low miles
Only $6,900

2006 CHEVY SILVERADO 3500
Flatbed big truck, little buck
Only $9,900

2013 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM
Just in!!
Every option, super low miles
Only $9,900

2013 FORD FLEX SEL
Just in!!
Sunroof, leather, loaded for less
Only $11,900

2019 KIA SOUL
Just in! Low miles!
Only $11,900

2014 INFINITY QX60 AWD
Luxury for less
Only $14,900

2007 JEEP WRANGLER
It's candy!!
Only $14,900

2014 HONDA ACCORD LXI
Just in!!
Every option with super low miles
Only $14,900

2016 VW BEETLE WOLFSBURG EDITION
Titillating turbo tourer
Only $14,900

2020 CHEVY SONIC LT
Just in!! only 43,000 miles, off lease, one owner Showroom new to you
Only $15,900

2019 HYUNDAI SONATA GLS
Extra low miles, leather, loaded
Only $17,900

2019 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4
Jacked up Duramax with every toy!
Must See!!

2017 TOYOTA PRIUS PRIME
Only 35,000 miles with every option 50 MPG's!!!
Only $24,900

2018 BMW 430I X SERIES
Just in!!
Only 35,000 miles with every option including AWD
Only $26,900

2022 MITSUBISHI ECLIPSE CROSS AWD
Just in!! Only 23,000 miles with every option
Only $26,900

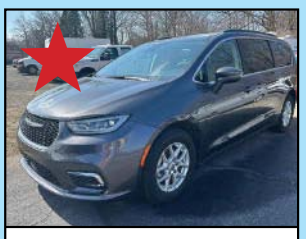
2023 SUBARU IMPREZA
Only 7,000 miles, showroom condition
Only $27,900

2021 CHEVY COLORADO EX-CAB LT 4 X 4
Just in!!
Off lease, one owner, super clean
Only $29,900

2021 ALFA ROMEO STELVIO TI AWD
Low miles
Only $29,770

2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

2020 CHEVY TAHOE 4 X 4
Just in!!
Save thousands
Only $29,900



2022 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L
Mint condition, low miles, Save $$$
Only $31,900

2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCAB 4 X 4
Just in!!
Ecoboost with only 46,000 miles
Only $33,900

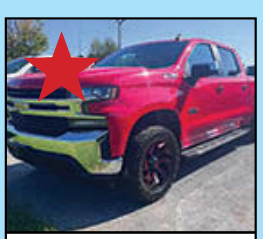
2020 CHEVY EXPRESS EXTENDED CARGO
Just in!!
Very rare. 6.0 litre V-8. Only 47,000 miles
Only $34,900

2019 CHEVY BOX TRUCK
20ft, auto, a/c, super low miles
Only $37,900

2019 RAM 1500 CREW LIMITED 4 X 4
Every option, over $67,000 new. Save huge!
Only $37,900

2020 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA
Just in!!
1 owner with only 46,000 miles
Only $39,900

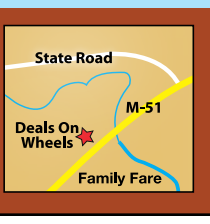
2024 CHEVY SILVERADO 4 X 4
Just in!! Only 3,000 miles…. Hard to find
Only $39,900



2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only $41,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
Only $45,900

2022 FORD F-350 DUALLY 4 X 4
Just in!!
Like new in perfect condition
Only $55,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC